

RECOMMENDED TREATMENT UPDATE—GONORRHEA

On December 18, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an [Update to CDC's Treatment Guidelines for Gonococcal Infection, 2020](#).

CDC no longer recommends a 2-drug approach to gonorrhea treatment. Rather, CDC now recommends a **single 500 mg IM dose of ceftriaxone** for treatment of uncomplicated urogenital, anorectal, and pharyngeal gonorrhea. If chlamydial infection has not been excluded, concurrent treatment with doxycycline (100 mg orally twice a day for 7 days) is recommended.

Rationale:

- Increasing concern for azithromycin resistance and the impact of antimicrobials on the microbiome have led to the recommendation that azithromycin no longer be used as a first line treatment for gonorrhea
- Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic modeling has affected the understanding of optimal antimicrobial dosing for *N. gonorrhoeae* treatment, increasing the ceftriaxone dosage to 500 mg

Special Considerations:

- For persons weighing ≥ 150 kg (300 lbs), a single 1 g IM dose of ceftriaxone should be administered
- Alternative regimens for persons with urogenital/rectal infection:
 - ◇ gentamicin 240 mg in a single IM dose + azithromycin 2 g orally as a single dose (cephalosporin allergy)
 - ◇ cefixime 800 mg orally as a single dose
- No reliable alternative treatments are available for pharyngeal gonorrhea



Test of Cure:

- For persons with pharyngeal gonorrhea, a test-of-cure is recommended 7–14 days after initial treatment
- All persons treated for gonorrhea should be retested 3 months after treatment

Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT):

- If unable to or unlikely to seek timely treatment, a partner may be treated with cefixime 800 mg orally as a single dose (plus oral doxycycline 100 mg twice daily for 7 days if chlamydia has not been excluded)

Further sexually transmitted disease resources can be found at ptc.health.utah.gov.

	Recommended Tx for gonorrhea	ceftriaxone 500 mg in a single IM dose
	If chlamydia has not been excluded	+ doxycycline 100 mg orally BID x 7 days



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